To Jim Garrison, from Harold Weisberg 3/16/68

Mom's Society Page and Oswald

Although Dean Andrews, who had told me he had heard that as a young man Oswald has "sold tricks for $20" at the Old Society Page (which he incorrectly said had burned down), also said Mom would toss me out if I tried to speak to her, I found that she would talk a little. Aside from the obvious problem, there was another-her conviction that "I don't know anything", which makes it difficult to make her see that a tiny fragment of truth that to her has no significance might be important.

I also spoke to Johnny Komundy (approx). He is a gay (Andrews) bartender she says is completely honest and has been with her for seven years. He works the morning shift. He was, thus, at the old place. Both remember Oswald from there.

Johnny says the opposite of Andrews. He recalls that Oswald was a hustler but recalls none of the girls. Mom lived in the same building 126 Exchange, and on the same floor as the Oswalds, with her son's apartment between them. According to Johnny, although he saw little of Oswald, he is confident it is not in the Andrews-cast role. Mom worked the night shift in those days, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. and says she never saw Oswald there then.

Mom had a delicate brain operation a year ago, for the removal of a tumor. It seems to have denied her recollection of the preceeding year or year and a half. She here expressed her trust in Johnny by saying that when her son asked if he should check the register, she told him no.

I explained to ~~them both~~ Mom and Johnny my apprehensions about the two most likely next scapegoats, as I have to you. Here we went into what Andrews did to Gene Davis (she was outraged and hotly denied it could be so). We were also talking about the fact of the assassination and of the danger from the fake inquest to the country. Whatever one of these things or whatever combination caused it, I do not know, but this ~~tough~~ TOUGH old (62) gal wept.

I gather she is either ready to believe or convinced that Shaw is Bertrand. She did not identify him as a customer and said he travelled on a different level. She laughingly said her clientele considers Shaw and his kind as "drapery salesladies". She identified only two known Shaw hangouts in her suggestions for further checking: the Galley House (whose knowledgeable ownwer, Mary Collins, is now dead) and La Marina. She knew nothing about the incident Ivan Cottman told me he had seen repeated often: Shaw glancing into LaFitte's and then hurrying off.

I got to the Society Page in time to see Mom order a very drunk very gay man out after he lost his balance from an early-morning drunk. It was then not yet 11 a.m. She can be rough. With him were a pair of similars gays. One, however, particularly drew my attention because he bears so close a facial resemblance to Dago Garner full-face only. He is much heavier, a very broad man whose back hair-ends curl upward like a drake's. He was soft-spoken and polite, but looked very tough. I was particularly interested in this

because sveral people told me they recognized the Garner picture but were uncertain why. One, Ophelia, referred to the eyes, and on this man, too, there was a similar look in the eyes.

Johnny seems to be in his 30s. He is a well-built, neat man about 5'9" with a pronounced pugnose in profile.

I repeated the question about Oswald selling trick and he gave the same answer, adding, "He didn't come around too much in the day time". This is an inference that he knew Oswald was there at night, which Mom disputes. Johnny also said he saw Oswald often in White's pool hall.